Dear Ms Grahame

Health and Sport Committee inquiry into CAMHS : Response by Orkney Islands Council

With regard to the specific areas of interest of the Committee in relation to “The Mental Health of Children and Young People: A framework for Promotion, Prevention and Care”

- **what targets have been set for the implementation of the framework;**

As described in the framework itself (1.17), action planning by the Council and its partners for this broad range of service planning elements and activities has been taken forward through integrated children’s services planning structures.

Following development of the Council, and now the Community Planning Partnership’s, Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government, and in line with recent Scottish Government guidance on integrated children’s services plans, Orkney’s ICSP 2008-2009 (attached) has been developed as an overarching, evaluative strategic document. This highlights a limited number of key priorities with SMART targets, of which the following are specifically geared to delivery of the framework:

- Improve corporate parenting performance
- Secure satisfactory levels of psychiatry, psychology, and child and adolescent mental health services
- Promote development of additional local therapeutic services to help children heal and to promote resilience and inclusion
- Develop integrated assessment and planning to “get it right for every child”
The Plan also reflects extensive consultation with children of primary and secondary school age across the whole community, and their input about what promotes their mental health and well being.

The Plan reports on a range of relevant outcome indicators as part of the evaluation, and cross-references associated action plans (e.g. Child Protection Committee Workplan, Childcare Partnership Strategy, Substance Misuse Strategy for Orkney, Youth Crime Action Plan, NEET Delivery Plan, Education and Recreation Service Improvement Plan) which are also setting targets for and taking forward elements of the framework.

There is no single separate framework document for the Council or for Orkney and the time allowed for this response is insufficient to enable comprehensive and detailed reporting on the very wide range of action areas across the Council and partnership services. To further assist the Committee, with specific detail on some action areas, however, there is appended also the most recent report (September 2008) on Mental Health Implementation Indicators.

- whether there are any risks associated with those targets, either in relation to hindering achievement of the target or in terms of potential consequences for the organisation;

In relation to delivery and risks for the key ICSP targets, potential risks are as follows:

- Improve corporate parenting performance

Currently on target and no specific risks anticipated, though progress may be constrained by organisational capacity

- Secure satisfactory levels of psychiatry, psychology, and child and adolescent mental health services

Service Level Agreement concluded and funding in place but continued risk of delayed delivery as start date not yet confirmed. Risks to the organisation in terms of lack of appropriate clinical support for frontline practitioners.

- Promote development of additional local therapeutic services to help children heal and to promote resilience and inclusion

Currently on target, but some services dependent on short-term funding and risks that this will not be sustained

- Develop integrated assessment and planning to “get it right for every child”

Currently on target and no specific risks anticipated, though progress may be constrained by organisational capacity.

In relation to delivery and risks for the MH Implementation Indicators, these are as set out in the document appended.

- to what extent has staffing need been estimated in relation to delivering the plan and what the outcome was of any such assessment;

Specifically for CAMHS tier 2 Services, staffing need has been estimated using the framework benchmark of 3 per 100,000 population for a non-teaching service. 2 permanent, full time, professionally qualified CAMHS practitioner posts have been established since the publication of the framework in 2005, one funded by NHS Orkney and one by Orkney Islands Council. A third support worker post was to have been provided initially via short-term
funding to develop specific services for young people affected by substance misuse but there have been difficulties with recruitment and retention and the post, and support needs, are under review.

The need for psychiatry and psychology input has also been assessed, and a service level agreement has been negotiated with Grampian to provide the necessary level of visiting services, network support, consultation for CAMHS practitioners, and professional development activities. A start date has yet to be agreed. Orkney currently has no service arrangements for clinical psychology or psychiatry for under 13s, and has a quarterly outpatients service for over 13s only.

Provision at tier 2 is as detailed below in relation to Implementation Indicator 10 and meets local need. At this level the service is provided by the existing staffing establishment, with the addition of 0.5 educational psychologist. This model of schools-based service has been particularly commended by the Implementation Review.

Staffing needs related to wider delivery of the framework – the full range of service elements and activities – are assessed by the lead partners and it is not possible to capture all the relevant detail for this response.

- **how many whole-time equivalents at the generic, multi-disciplinary level per 100,000 of population have been agreed?**

As above.

I trust that the above and attached/enclosed meets your request.

Yours sincerely

Alistair Buchan
Chief Executive